

**LOPEZ CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT
COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY
DECEMBER 2010**

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF SANITATION**

Meeting Date: December 1, 2010
Location: Lopez Trailers

Meeting: 7:05 pm - 8:25 pm

OVERVIEW

Fifteen Lopez neighbors attended the meeting. Thomas Corbishley, Acoustical Engineer with Behrens and Associates, presented the results of their noise analysis of the Environmental Center.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE (LCEC)

Production rates were the same as last quarter. The give-away site is being relocated 100 yards north. Two odor complaints were received and responded to. Behrens & Associates analyzed grinder and back-up alarm noise. Sanitation will follow their recommendations and build a plywood sound barrier near the grinder. Back-up alarms on Sanitation owned loaders will be replaced with broadband alarms and Sanitation will work with Hertz to receive permission to put these alarms on their rental loaders.

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REVIEW

Part 1 involves building an equestrian staging area and picnic site near the old barn area and Bartholemew Canyon trail. Part 2 involves connecting 'B' canyon and the perimeter of the landfill to the rim trail system. Part 1 is currently being designed and was discussed. Sanitation plans to maintain the feel of the Dubois barn area and it's rich history. Community comments are requested.

'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE

Funds are available to update the playground equipment. Sanitation is working with a vendor to purchase equipment. Handouts of the proposed equipment were distributed. Comments on the equipment and plan were requested.

CLOSURE UPDATE

'C' canyon closure is complete and a request for closure approval will be submitted to the state by the end of the year. This was the last area that needed to be closed.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY UPDATE

The Board of Public Works approved the project in October 2010. It is currently with the Mayor's office for final execution

MISCELLANEOUS

The proposed 2011 community meeting schedule was distributed and is attached.

COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. Post the Behrens and Associates Acoustical Analysis on the website.
2. Inform the community of the date and time of the acoustical analysis.
3. Make the draft Trailhead Conceptual Design available to the community.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison
Fifteen Lopez neighbors attended the meeting. Thomas Corbishley, Acoustical Engineer with Behrens and Associates, attended the meeting to present the results of their noise analysis of the Environmental Center.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER(LCEC) UPDATE Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent

August, September, October, November Tonnage:

Production rates were the same as last quarter's. Partial compost is produced by letting the mulch decompose naturally for 21 days. This kills weed seeds. It's useful for dust and weed control.

12,656 tons were delivered to farmers in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties

4,000 tons of mulch were donated to residents

168 tons of compost were sold

The give-away site is being relocated 100 yards north. The site will be paved and a bay will be built for the horse manure based compost, as well as the mulch. If there's room, compost from the Griffith Park Compost Facility will be included.

Q: When will this happen?

A: In the next month or two. It is a low priority and will be worked on when time is available. An outside contractor will do paving and we'll get a quote for that work.

Q: As a resident of Kagel Canyon can I get any of this material?

A: Yes. It's available to all Lopez neighbors, including Kagel Canyon. Our neighbors can also bring brush (not manure) up to compost facility Monday-Thursday from 4-5pm. We can also deliver large loads of compost locally. Contact Jim Kurz (contact information on the last page) to arrange that.

Odors

Two complaints were received. We could not locate the source of one of the complaints and the odor disappeared on it's own. The other occurred when the mister wasn't on so we put it on.

Q: Does the odor mister continually function?

A: No, it's not on at night and other times, like weekends, when staff isn't here.

Noise Thomas Corbishley, Acoustical Engineer with Behrens and Associates

Behrens and Associates specializes in solving noise and vibration problems. We were asked to look at two specific problem areas: the low frequency hum from the grinders and the back-up beeper noise.

Grinder Analysis: We took measurements at the facility and in the residential community looking at noise levels to determine mitigation measures to lower the noise level. 3 dBA is just perceptible, 5 dBA is perceptible, and 10 is very perceptible and halves the noise level. 5-10 dBA reduction in noise would reduce the noise level to below ambient noise level and would have the biggest impact on the homes nearest the facility. Since the grinders cannot be fully enclosed, our aim is to reduce grinder noise by 5-10 dBA. This will be done by building noise barriers of a minimum of ½" thick plywood using the framework of the berm.

Back-Up Alarms: The alarms were tested to assess their noise level relative to that of other equipment at the site. The results showed widely varying noise levels

(71-88 dBA) at a distance of 50 ft from the vehicles. White noise (broadband) back-up alarms are not really noticeable and Behrens recommends using them. Sanitation is investigating changing the back-up alarms on the loaders, but since half (four loaders) are rented from Hertz, Sanitation needs to get permission to do that. The four that are owned by the City will be changed.

Q: Do these back-up alarms comply with CALOSHA?

A: They comply with the CA Code of Standards, which brings us into compliance with CALOSHA. According to their regulations, the alarm must be heard within 200 feet of the vehicle, but in particularly noisy areas, this does not need to be complied with.

Q: Are you looking at changing the path of the loaders?

A: We are still extending the berm and waiting for new equipment. Once both are completed, we'll see if changing the path is necessary.

Q: I see problems with the plan. There's a hard surface that ricochets the sound and just using plywood on the berm won't work to cut the sound.

A: Hard surfaces actually cut sound and stop sound from reverberating.

Community Comment: Acoustic foam would add a lot to the hard surface.

Response: Acoustical foam doesn't always help, it depends on the situation. In this situation, it won't provide any added benefit. The height of the sound barrier is most important. 16 feet high will cut the sound 5-10 dBA.

Q: Couldn't you test the back-up beeper reduction and let us know what the noise reduction level would be?

A: We couldn't do that because each piece of equipment is different and the noise reduction level is different. We did get a 5dBA reduction on the two pieces we tested. Our goal is to replace all back-up alarms with broadband.

Q: Can the community get a copy of this study?

A: Yes. We'll put it up on the website. Copies were distributed at the meeting.

Q: When will the changes be implemented?

A: We wanted to first present the results of the study to the community. Since that has been done at this meeting, we can now order the materials and build the noise barriers. It will take 2-4 weeks to get the material.

Q: Will the barriers be visible to the community?

A: They will be behind the berm so they probably won't be visible to most of the community. Upper Kagel might see the top of some of the barriers. We could paint them brown to blend into the surroundings like we did to the k-rails several years ago at Mike Trivich's request.

Q: Residents were supposed to be contacted when the study was done so that we could see how it was done. We asked to have this done and we were not contacted.

A: That was an oversight and we apologize for that.

Q: What day and time were the tests done?

A: We need to look that up and will let you know.

Q: What about using mufflers?

A: Mufflers are used on the loaders but they don't help reduce the noise of the back-up alarm. Mufflers can't be used on the stationary grinder because they'd have to cover the engines, which produces a lot of heat. That would cause a safety hazard. Screens are the best mitigation for the stationary equipment.

Sanitation will proceed with building the barriers. They should be completed by March.

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REVIEW Nishith Dhandha, Bureau of Engineering, Architecture Division

The first part of the plan involves building an equestrian staging area and picnic site near the DuBois old barn area and Bartholemew Canyon trail, near the intersection of Terra Bella and Terra Vista. The second part involves connecting 'B' canyon and the perimeter of the landfill to the rim trail system. We are currently designing Part 1 of the plan.

Part 1: Equestrian Staging Area and Picnic Area

The area survey is almost complete and we've begun the drawings. The drawings are 20% complete and we're here to receive your feedback, as we committed to.

We'd like to maintain the feel of the area and its rich history. Following that vein, we'll preserve the old barn walls, the barn steps and the beautiful trees. Our objective is to maintain and appreciate the old, while making the area usable.

To respect the nearby neighbors, the plan includes a concrete apron around the area to minimize noise. This is not a big area, space is limited, and we need to work within those confines. There will be one, gated, two-way entrance (where the existing entrance is) and two terraced parking areas. The parking area will fit four trailers and will provide space for a good turning radius when four trailers are present. Additional parking will be provided for 12 cars. There will be plantings and landscaping to minimize views of the cars and trailers. This is a steep site, a 10-12% slope, so we're planning to create flat areas covered with gravel for the vehicles. Retaining walls (about 3 ft high and similar in style to the old barn walls) will be built to maintain the grade and terraces. There will be access to the picnic area from both terraced parking areas. We'll create some walking paths. Two hitching areas will be provided and water for horses will be available in one of those areas. There will be space for five horses in one area. The other area will be in the picnic area. Four picnic tables will be provided and a water fountain. To maintain a natural look, boulders will be placed in spots to help riders get on and off their horses.

The area will be landscaped to have a look of green canopies that will be somewhat see-through and will also hide the vehicles. Landscaping will be addressed in more detail after the building plans are completed. We'd like your comments on the type of vegetation you'd prefer and what works best for equestrians and horses. Send your thoughts to Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison (see last page for contact information). In addition, let us know if you find any structural or other problems with our current plan. We can accommodate changes at this point and later on in the process as well.

Q: Is this the old DuBois Barn Area, where there's a small stone wall?

A: Yes

Comment: It's a very pretty area and I'm glad the City is appreciating it.

Q: Will there be restrooms in the picnic area?

A: There are problems concerning maintaining the cleanliness of restrooms.

Q: Could we have more hitching posts and restrooms? As the word spreads, lots of people will want to use this area and you need to think ahead. Once the trail is connected to the rim trail people might come down to use this area.

A: We are trying to think of ways to maintain the area, but we don't have a lot of resources to do that. Due to lack of staff, we'd like to keep usage low and keep the 'bad element' out.

Q: Could you make a stopover on top with a restroom?

A: From a practical perspective we couldn't build a restroom up there.

Q: Will both hitching posts have water?

A: The sites are near each other so we are planning to put water in only one of the locations.

Community Comment: I suggest having water in both sites so that large groups can get in and out quickly.

Q: When you pull into the parking area with a trailer will there be enough room to make u-turns?

A: There will be no need for u-turns. The roads will be 2-way and it's a loop system.

Q: What's the schedule for building the trails?

A: We don't have the specifics yet. Design will take place in 2011 and construction in 2012.

Sanitation is considering building a trail up along B canyon to the landfill edge at the top. Is 'B' canyon OK for horses? Has anyone ridden there recently?

One Resident Response: I've ridden there and you need a good trail horse.

Sanitation Response. We'll need to walk the trail. We'd like to leave it natural without fences so that people can continue walking that area.

Q: Will debris basin maintenance be a problem and how will you maintain it?

A: We can't maintain it. We might cut some brush but we can't maintain it. It will remain natural.

Sanitation will have copies of the site plan available at Lopez so that people can view them and ask questions. Contact Jim Kurz (contact information on the last page) if you'd like to see the drawings. We need to do more survey work, the drawings need to be tweaked with detail added. Nishith will work with Jim. FTDNC requested a copy of the plans. Jim will give them to Vikki Brinks when she comes for her tour of Lopez.

'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE - Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent and Robert Buenrostro, Park Maintenance Supervisor

Funds are available to update the playground equipment and we are working with a vendor to do that. The Department of Recreation and Parks works with this vendor. Handouts of the proposed equipment were distributed. Two play areas are planned, one for 2-5 year olds, and the other for 5-12 year olds. They'll have rubberized mats and sand. We'll repair what is repairable and replace what isn't. We'd like comments from the community before we start construction. The walkways will be ADA compliant, with a gradual grade. Several meeting attendees said the proposed equipment looked cute.

Q: When will this happen?

A: This can be turned over quickly. We can call tomorrow, on Thursday, and then proceed. We were waiting to receive input from the community. If we order now the playground will be ready for the spring.

Q: What will you do about graffiti?

A: We will remove it. Robert's crew will inspect the area every morning.

Sanitation is planning to start maintaining the Kagel Canyon debris basin starting Jan 1 2011. We will keep the weeds down, do some planting, and improve the area's aesthetics. We have been asked to do this for years and are happy we can now help out and go there once a week.

Sanitation will landscape the Environmental Center extended berm and the inside of the facility. We will also landscape the sides of the road you drive coming up to our meeting. We'll be doing more hydroseeding in new areas and will re-hydroseed in areas where the seeds didn't grow. We'll do this every year. We plan to replace the hydroseeder that was lost in the fire.

Q: Can you grow trees on the berm?

A: Yes, the berm is all dirt so we can plant deeply rooted vegetation.

CLOSURE UPDATE – Jim Kurz, John Hamilton, Lopez Engineering Project Manager

'C' Canyon closure is complete and we are now in the maintenance stage. This was the last area to be closed. A request for closure approval will be submitted to the state by the end of the year. We hope to receive approval during the first quarter of 2011.

Q: Has the gas system peaked?

A: It peaked in 1997. It was 7000 cubic feet per minute (cfm) and is now 2400 cfm.

Q: Will the land keep settling after the gas stops?

A: It will not settle as much, but we still need to maintain it.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY UPDATE – Jonathan Zari, Acting Assistant Division Manager, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division

The Board of Public Works approved the project in October 2010. It is currently with the Mayor's office for final execution. Due to ongoing litigation, no further update is available at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS, Reva Fabrikant

The proposed 2011 community meeting schedule was distributed and is attached. Attendees were comfortable with the proposed dates. If anyone has comments please send them to Reva Fabrikant.

COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. Post the Berhens and Associates Acoustical Analysis of the Environmental Center on the website.
2. Inform the community of the date and time of the acoustical analysis.
3. Sanitation will provide FTDNC with a copy of the Equestrian Staging Area plan, and will make these plans available to the community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER: 818-834-5122

WEBSITE: <http://lacitysan.org/srpcd/index.htm>

Khalil Gharios, Manager Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division Khalil.Gharios@lacity.org

Jim Kurtz, Operations Superintendent
1-818-834-5128 James.Kurz@lacity.org

Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison
1-866-950-7382 Reva.Fabrikant@revafab.com

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011
Meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

PROPOSED
2011 COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE
LOPEZ CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT

Wed. March 2: **Meeting**
Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Wed. June 1: **Tour & Meeting**
Tour 6:30pm - 7:05pm
Meeting 7:10pm - 8:30pm

Wed. September 7: **Tour & Meeting**
Tour 6:30pm - 7:05pm
Meeting 7:10pm - 8:30pm

Wed. December 7: **Meeting**
Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm

NOTE: These dates and times could be changed. You will be notified before each meeting.